

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2305

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: REPORT ON MRS. NIXON'S VISIT TO BRAZIL

1. MRS. NIXON'S VISIT HERE CAN ONLY BE CALLED A PRONOUNCED SUCCESS. HER DESIGNATION BY THE PRESIDENT TO HEAD THE US DELEGATION, COMBINING AS IT DID PRESIDENTIAL RANK AND DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST WITH HER WARMTH AND THE PERSONAL TOUCH SO APPRECIATED BY BRAZILIANS, LEFT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FLATTERED AND PLEASED. SHE WAS ACCORDED AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME BY OFFICIALS AND AVERAGE BRAZILIANS EVERYWHERE SHE WENT THROUGHOUT HER STAY, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH INAUGURATION ARRANGEMENTS GENERALLY EXTENDED THEMSELVES (AND OCCASIONALLY THEIR RULES) TO ACCOMMODATE OUR SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS, PRESS, AND PROTOCOLARY NEEDS.

2. AS REPORTED IN PRESS-SUMMARY CABLES, MEDIA COVERAGE OF MRS. NIXON WAS EXTENSIVE, POSITIVE, AND COMPLIMENTARY, WITH HER CHARM AND WAR PERSONALITY RECEIVING PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE COMMENT. THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF THE COVERAGE EXCEEDED BY FAR THAT ACCORDED ANY OTHER FIGURE INVOLVED IN THE INAUGURATION EXCEPT PRESIDENTS GEISEL AND MEDICI.

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3. AS A MATTER OF PARTICULAR NOTE, HER ARRIVAL AT THE CONGRESS FOR THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WAS GREETED BY A SPONTANEOUS AND PROLONGED BURST OF APPLAUSE FROM THE DEPUTIES, SENATORS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS IN THE PACKED GALLERIES, THE ONLY SUCH RECEPTION GIVEN ANY ARRIVAL. A LEFT-OF-CENTER OPPOSITON CONGRESSMAN TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT WHEN THE DELEGATIONS HEADED BY CHIEFS OF STATE WERE ANNOUNCED, HE SAT ON HIS HANDS, BUT WHEN MRS. NIXON WAS ANNOUNCED HE GLADLY APPLAUDED HER AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

4. SIMILARLY, UPON HER DEPARTURE FROM THE PLANALTO PALACE AFTER THE TRANSFER-OF-OFFICE CEREMONY, SPECTATORS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE STREET, AS WELL AS THOSE NEARBY, BROKE INTO APPLAUSE AND CALLED OUT GREETINGS TO HER, THE ONLY DELEGATATE SO HONORED. THE CHEERY WAVE AND READY SMILE WITH WHICH SHE RESPONDED ONLY INTENSIFIED THE RECEPTION.

5. FROM BRAZILIANS, PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL, WHO WERE ANXIOUS TO GREET HER, WE RECEIVED SOME PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SHE WAS NOT ABLE TO STAY LONGER AT THE RECEPTION GIVEN BY PRESIDENT GEISEL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. OUR EXPLANATIONS, HOWEVER, WERE READILY ACCEPTED.

6. HER RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT MEDICI AT THE PRESENTATION-OF-CREDENTIALS CEREMONY HAD A SPECIAL WARMTH. PRESIDENT GEISEL WAS SIMILARLY DEMONSTRATIVE DURING THEIR PERSONAL MEETING AT THE ITAMARTY RECEPTION, AT WHICH TIME MRS. NIXON DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND EXTENDED AN ORAL INVITATION TO GEISEL TO VISIT WASHINGTON.

7. THE EMBASSY GROUP SCHEDULED TO BE AT THE AIRPORT FOR HER DEPARTURE HAD CONSIDERED SURPRISING HER BY SINGING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" AS SHE WENT UP THE RAMP, BUT WHEN THE MINISTER OF AERONAUTICS HEARD OF THE MATTER, HE PERSONALLY TOOK CHARGE, ARRANGING FOR A CHORAL GROUP OF OVER FORTY MEMBERS TO DO THE SINGING INSTEAD. WE CONSIDER THIS GESTURE BOTH A FITTING AND A REPRESENTATIVE CONCLUSION TO A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND WELL-RECEIVED VISIT, ONE WHICH CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS AND TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ADVANCEMENT OF US INTERESTS.
CRIMMINS

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